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Shigehisa Motowaki

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EXAMINER

LUK, EMMANUEL S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

ADVISORY ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-14 have been considered but are not persuasive. The applicants argue concerning the references of Chou and Hubert have been considered, however, it is not persuasive. The main argument concerns the mold releasing agent of the claim being applied to the top surfaces of the convex portion of the mold. There is a lack of means of providing the releasing agent upon the mold surface of the apparatus and pertains more of a process limitation of applying the agent upon the mold surface. As taught by Chou in view of Hubert, it is known to apply release material upon the surface of the mold and Hubert further teaches that it is already known in the pressing arts that treated layers can also be applied to only the protruding surfaces (the top of the convex portions of the mold). One skilled in the art would recognize that the teachings of Hubert are capable of being applied to the surface of Chou. In Chou, it is stated that the material may come into contact with the depressed surface 16a, but this interpretation is also open that it need not, that the application of the release surface throughout the entire surface is a preventative matter. Chou also teaches how the release material may or may not fill the entire openings of the mold (see Col. 3, lines 9-15), hence the coating can be 'non-continuous'. The argument concerning the Hubert reference is noted, however, the concept of having specific treated surfaces of the printing/embossing surfaces is noted and one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the usefulness especially with the imprinting arts as both pertain to the molding surface being brought into contact with another surface. The argument by the applicants of the advantage with the release jig is noted, however it is not a

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claimed structure of issue. The argument that the combination of Chou with Hubert would destroy Chou for its intended purpose is noted. However, it is not persuasive as Chou as a structure can also be applied to any desired surface which may call for the release layer being applied only to the top of the convex portion as per the Hubert reference.

The remaining references from the rejection are mentioned in the applicants arguments as being based upon the Chou and Hubert references and as such all stand or fall with the main references.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel S. Luk whose telephone number is (571)272-1134. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra N. Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Yogendra N Gupta/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791

EL